should be considered. It was also decided that a suggestion may be given to the Ministry of Agriculture that they should concentrate on import of finished fertilisers primarily in non-monsoon periods.

Optimum profit limit for private sector connected with ancillary activities of the Railways

1769. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed the optimum limit for profit of the private sector investors connected with ancillary activities of the Railways;

(b) if so, what is the said limit; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in negative, what are the reasons for not fixing the limit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Department of Railways being a Public Utility Department follows the principle of competitive tendering in respect of the various purchases made by them. No limit of profit as such is fixed and cases are dealt with on merits. In case the rate quoted is considered high, negotiations are conducted to bring down the prices.

Railway Fares and Freights

1770. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount collected by Railways through hike in railway fares and freights year-wise from 1982-83 to 1985-86; and

(b) the percentage of rise in railway fares from 1982-83 to 1985-86?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Accounts maintained on the railways do not identify the money collected separately through hike in railway fares and freights during any accounting period.

(b) The approximate percentage rise in railway fares is as under:

1982-83	17.5
1983-84	13.0
1984-85	7.7
1985-86	8.6

Withdrawal of the flights by the foreign airlnes from Calcutta

1771. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the foreign airlines which have decided to withdraw their flights from Calcutta airport;

(b) what are the reasons for which they are withdrawing these flights from Calcutta; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) British Airways had announced some time back their decision to withdraw their once-weekly Calcutta fight with effect from 1st December, 1985. Union of Burma Airways have also suspended their once-weekly Calcutta Rangoon service recently. These decisions are apparently based on commercial grounds.

Since air operations are governed by considerations of mutual commercial benefits, the Government cannot direct any foreign airline to operate on desired points routes.

Expenditure on expansion and modernisation of the International Airports

1772. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state what is the total expenditure incurred for expansion and modernisation of Calcutta, Bombay, Delhi and Madras airports during the Fifth and Sixth Five Year Plan periods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): The total expenditure incurred on expansion and modernisation of Calcutta, Bombay, Delhi and Madras Airports during the Fifth Five

Year Plan (1972—77) and Sixth Five Year Plan (1980—85) is Rs. 2391.76 lakhs and Rs. 14575.86 lakhs respectively. The details are as under:—

(Rupees in lakhs)

	Calcutta	Bombay	Delhi	Madras	Total
Fifth Five Year Plan (1972—77)	315.67	635.09	1165.53	275.47	2391.76
Sixth Five Year Plan (1980—85)	556.70	4638.42	7610.72	1770.02	14575.86

Texts of the Indus Valley Civilization

1773. SHRI O. J. JOSEPH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the 'Amrit Bazar Patrika' dated the 19th October, 1985 under the caption 'Indus Valley texts deciphered'; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the language used in the texts of the Indus Valley Civilization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SMT. SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Russian scholars have claimed that the language used on the Indus Valley Seals belongs to the Dravidian Group. While a number of valuable studies have been made, there is lack of unanimity amongst the decipherers themselves regarding the nature of Harappan language and script.

In the absence of any positive evidence like a bi-lingual seal of eqigraph the claimed decipherment of the so-called Indus Script can be regarded only as another effort. It is, therefore, not possible at present to describe the salient features of the language.

Railway ancillary works for private sector

1774. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to hand over railway ancillary works to private sector; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Central Assistance for development of public libraries in the States

1775. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government provide any financial assistance to the State Governments for the development of public libraries; and

(b) if so, what is the amount of such financial assistance given to the different States during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SMT. SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) The Central Government does not provide any financial assistance directly to State Governments for the development of Public Libraries. However, Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Calcutta an autonomous organisation fully financed by the Central Government, does provide grants to State Governments, *inter-alia* for development of public libraries.

(b) The requisite information is given in the statement.